

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26 are independent. Claims 1, 13, 17-21, 24-27, and 30-31 are hereby amended. In the drawings, Figure 5 is amended to change "Loosley-coupled" in block 504 to "Loosely-coupled."

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(A)

In sections 2-4 on pages 2-19, the Office Action rejects claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,885,635 to Haq. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites that "forwarding tables are maintained, updated, and redundantly engineered independently of failures on routing tables" (emphasis added). Support in the specification for the subject matter added to the independent claims can be found in, for example, paragraph [0021] of the specification as filed. Similar subject matter now appears in independent claims 13, 17, 21, and 26.

The above-quoted subject matter provides significant advantages. As described in paragraph [0021], because the forwarding tables are maintained, updated, and redundantly engineered independently from the routing tables, the data and control paths of the routing element are disjoint. Accordingly, when a fatal software or hardware failure occurs in the control path, the forwarding agents in the data path domain continue to execute packet forwarding processes without interruption. As further disclosed in paragraph [0028], this disjointed structure provides the advantage of a continuous switchover capability. In addition, as

disclosed in paragraph [0031], data forwarding processes are maintained non-disruptively while the router internally transitions to standby processes and modules.

Applicant respectfully submits that Haq does not disclose, teach, or suggest the above-quoted and described subject matter. While Haq provides a high capacity router with redundant components, Haq does not disclose forwarding tables that operate independently of failures on routing tables in the recited manner. As disclosed in lines 38-40 of col. 1, the central concept of Haq is the use of redundant components in a router; the system described in Haq lacks independent forwarding tables and routing tables. As a result, a system operating according to the disclosure of Haq would experience significant disruption or downtime upon a failure in the control path.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26 are allowable. Claims 2-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-25, and 27-31 respectively depend from allowable claims 1, 13, 17, 21, and 26. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-12, 14-16, 18-20, 22-25, and 27-31 are allowable at least on the basis of their respective dependencies upon allowable independent claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully

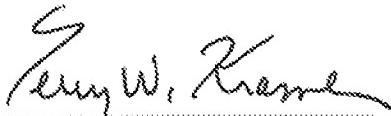
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requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event that the fees submitted prove to be insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.

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